

Special Recreation Area Management Plan

Cameo Cliffs Special Recreation Management Area

Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Moab Field Office

Recreation Area Management Plan
for
Cameo Cliffs Special Recreation Management Area

Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

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Cameo Cliffs Special Recreation Area Management Plan

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Location and Setting

The Cameo Cliffs proposed Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) is located in San Juan County in southeastern Utah approximately 18 miles north of Monticello, Utah, and 30 miles south of Moab, Utah. Within the boundary of the planning area there are approximately 20,050 acres of public land. (There are approximately 3,424 acres administered by the School Institutional Trust Lands Administration and 1,191 acres of private land within the boundaries of the planning area.) All actions proposed apply only to public land. Recommendations are made that San Juan County acquire public route access on School Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA). No actions will be taken on these lands prior to completion of authorizing agreements or easements.

The planning area is bounded by Utah Highway 46 and a series of county roads on the north, county roads on the east and south, and U.S. Highway 191 (Map 1). Public lands within the planning area include all or portions of: T. 29 S., R. 23 E. Sections 3, 4, 10-15, 22-27, 34, and 35; T. 29 S., R. 24 E., Sections 17-21, 28-31, 33 and 34; T. 29 ½ S., R. 23 E., Sections 31, 33 and 34; T. 29 ½ S., R. 24 E., Sections 34 and 35; T. 30 S., R. 23 E., Sections 1, 11, 12, and 13; and T. 30 S., R. 24 E., Sections 3 –11, 17 and 18.

Cameo Cliffs (so named by guidebook author F.A. Barnes in 1992) lies within an arid region composed of rock bluffs, short canyons, and minimal soil cover. Large areas of Entrada sandstone domes, pinnacles, and spires are found in the area. Hook and Ladder Gulch, an intermittent stream system, runs through the central portion of the planning area in a westerly direction. When looking to the north from high points, one sees the LaSal Mountains. Looking south, the Abajo Mountains can be seen. Looking west reveals Hatch Point and the adjacent Canyon Rims Special Recreation Management Area across U.S. Highway 191. There is variety in vegetation within the planning area, ranging from grasses and shrubs to the pinyon-juniper forest in the higher elevations.

B. Need for the Management Plan

Over the past several decades, the public has increasingly relied on federal lands to provide motorized recreational opportunities. While providing for this use of BLM-administered lands, it is also the responsibility of the BLM to ensure that the land and water resources of the public lands are preserved and conserved for future generations. Balancing public use and enjoyment of the public lands and the protection of resources requires BLM to manage the various activities, including recreation, that occur on them.

The growth in the use of Off Highway Vehicles (OHVs) on public lands has increased substantially over the past few years. This increase can be attributed in general to a relatively

strong economy, a focus by the public on outdoor recreation and the desire to find unconfined recreation opportunities. Advances in OHV technology allow greater ability to access previously inaccessible locations, and the rapid growth of urban population centers means that there are many residents who seek to explore and enjoy the public lands.

While generally lightly used for outdoor recreation in the past, the proposed Cameo Cliffs SRMA (an area within close proximity to the residents of Moab and Monticello, and to the visitors who flock to these communities) has potential to provide these recreation opportunities. San Juan County residents and others from across the states of Utah and Colorado are visiting the planning area for OHV-based experiences. The most prevalent recreational use is riding All Terrain Vehicles (ATV's); there is also some limited mountain bike use. The resources within Cameo Cliffs for this activity are outstanding. The area has over 140 miles of existing routes (a relic of exploration activities for oil, gas and uranium). Many of these routes offer spectacular views. The proliferation of old roads offers many opportunities for loop rides.

San Juan County has recognized the need to plan for ATV use in the Cameo Cliffs area. Currently, users are inappropriately accessing oil and gas facilities and having difficulty finding their way among the maze of old exploration routes. The County has approached the Bureau of Land Management, seeking to formulate a recreation plan that will provide for ATV activity, serve the users, protect the resource and supplement the San Juan County economy.

While ATV use is clearly not the only recreational use the area receives, special planning is required to ensure that opportunities for motorized recreation can be available without undue or unnecessary degradation to the area's natural resources, as well as to provide for public safety. The emphasis of the proposed Cameo Cliffs Special Recreation Area Management Plan (RAMP) on motorized recreation is a reflection of the importance the large majority of existing users place on motorized use. Other recreation activities, including mountain biking, horseback riding, hiking, camping, and hunting also occur, and are addressed as such in the Recreation Management Plan.

Many of the current visitors to the planning area are residents of San Juan and Grand counties, Utah. Visitors are attracted to the area for the opportunity to drive off-highway vehicles (with ATV's being most popular) mountain bike, ride horses, camp, hunt, and hike. Visitation is highest during spring and fall, when ambient air temperatures are relatively cool.

Long-range management of public lands within this area was addressed in the Grand RMP, which was initiated in 1981 and approved on June 21, 1985. The plan was written at a time when recreation use was relatively low, and was expected to grow at only moderate rates throughout the region. Recreational planning issues in the RMP are concerned with providing recreational opportunities to meet the increasing demand while protecting the existing natural resource base. The plan also calls for the provision of opportunities for OHV use while protecting sensitive resources. No specific recreation directives were made regarding the Cameo Cliffs planning area within the Grand RMP.

Past use, most of which has been undirected, has resulted in the establishment of scattered campsites and staging areas, with some resource damage from cross-country driving.

The Grand RMP designated all of the land within the Cameo Cliffs planning area open to cross-country motorized travel. The issue of vehicle designation within the Planning Area is addressed in this plan and the accompanying Environmental Assessment, Federal Register notice (to effect vehicle designation for mountain bikes) and Plan Amendment (to effect vehicle designation for OHV's). The present RAMP establishes management objectives and identifies management actions to achieve these objectives

C. Resources in the Management Area

Wildlife Resources

Due to its proximity to the LaSal Mountains, wildlife resources in Cameo Cliffs are quite rich. Mule deer, coyotes, kit foxes, deer mice, grasshopper mice, Ord's kangaroo rats, long-tailed weasels, and bats are found within the area. The more common bird species include turkey vulture, red-tailed hawk, golden eagle, rock dove, mourning dove, great-horned owl, cliff swallow, pinyon jay, American crow, common raven, canyon wren, mountain bluebird, and house finch. Reptiles and amphibians found in the area include several types of lizard and snake, including the collared lizard, gopher snake, night snake, and Western rattlesnake. No special status species are known to occur within the planning area, although portions of the area have been listed as prime breeding habitat and marginal foraging habitat for the Mexican spotted owl. Two year surveying protocol for Mexican spotted owl was initiated in 2002; no owls were found in either the first year (2002) or second year (2003) of the survey.

Gunnison's prairie dog occurs in the vicinity of the planning area; kit foxes and wintering bald eagles are also likely to inhabit this area. The Cameo Cliffs supports wintering mule deer.

Vegetation Resources

Vegetation within the planning area is typical of both desert upland and pinyon-juniper environments, including saltbush, greasewood, shadscale, Indian ricegrass, sagebrush, tamarisk, Wild rye, and rabbitbrush. There is some Fremont cottonwood in Hook and Ladder Gulch. No special status plant species are known to occur within the Cameo Cliffs SRMA.

Cultural Resources

The cultures which have inhabited the Cameo Cliffs area over the past 12,000 years include the Paleo-Indians, Archaic, Ancestral Puebloan, Fremont, Numic and Euro-American cultures. Archaeological studies in the area have contributed to the knowledge of these people and an understanding of our past. The following cultural history does not describe specific prehistoric sites, but gives a coherent interpretation of the cultures which used the Colorado Plateau follows.

The earliest period of human occupation within the area is the Paleo-Indian culture which dates from approximately 12,500 to 8,000 years ago. Sites have been classified as Paleo-Indian if they contain distinctive fluted points although no association with extinct megafauna has yet been found in Utah. These points were used in the hunting of large, now-extinct forms of mammals such as mammoth and bison. The known distribution of fluted points in Utah is rare, but widespread, including the Moab area.

The next period of occupation is known as the Archaic period which dates from 8,000 to 2,000 years ago. The Archaic culture is recognized as being largely nomadic, with seasonal rounds during which diverse animal and plant species were exploited over an extensive area as a particular food source became available. An Archaic presence in this area is manifested by Barrier Canyon Style rock art panels and Archaic campsites, caves, and rock shelters. These hunters and gatherers may have developed into or affected the Formative cultures of the northern Colorado Plateau region.

The Formative period (A.D. 1 to 1300) includes both the Ancestral Puebloan (Anasazi) and Fremont cultures. There are some rock shelters and campsites with Pueblo potsherds scattered within the Planning Area. The earliest Ancestral Puebloan stage is known as Basketmaker (II and III) which experienced a fundamental economic shift to agricultural food production. Technological innovations including food storage pits, milling stones, pit house architecture and pottery characterize this stage. Accompanied by the rise of village settlements, population density of the Colorado Plateau increased. The succeeding period termed Pueblo (I-III) saw developments in social-religious aspects of life, technology and subsistence economy as evidenced by architecture and the introduction of new crops and improved agricultural methods. Southeastern Utah was abandoned by the Ancestral Puebloans by about A.D. 1275. The Fremont resided north of the Ancestral Puebloans. The Fremont culture resembled Basketmaker III or Pueblo I developments. The San Rafael Fremont remains include pit houses, masonry rooms and storage structures. Widely scattered storage features suggest that farm plots were widely distributed to compensate for the highly localized nature of summer rainfall. Many of the Pueblo and Fremont structural sites are especially vulnerable to damage by visitation and vandalism.

Protohistoric Ute (A.D. 1400-1850) presence in the region is established on the basis of petroglyphs, unique brownware potsherds, remains of wooden wickiup structures, and ethnohistoric records.

Euro-American Contact The route of the Old Spanish National Historic Trail, in use through the middle of the 19th century, ran through the Cameo Cliffs area. This trail has recently been designated a unit of the National Trails System. A deep pothole called “La Tinaja” was used as a water source by travelers on this route – this is located at the southern base of Casa Colorado (this rock was a named feature on the Old Spanish Trail.) The Macomb Expedition (a U.S. Army Corps of Topographical Engineers foray) entered the area in 1859. The Expedition followed the route of the Old Spanish Trail through the Cameo Cliffs. The cattle industry predominated the area in the late 19th century, with graziers from LaSal using the range, as they

do to this day. The mail trail between Monticello and LaSal passed through the Planning Area, and is now in use as a road. Historic stock watering facilities are still found in the area today.

Exploitation of the mineral resources in the Cameo Cliffs area was underway by at least the 1940's, and continues through the present day. The area was also utilized during the uranium exploration period of the 1950's and 1960's, and many of the current roads date from this period. Oil and Gas exploration has also occurred extensively within the proposed SRMA; many of the routes in the area were constructed as part of exploration activities for this resource.

Visual Resources

Cameo Cliffs contains a high level of visual appeal. Far range views are attainable throughout much of the planning area. Scenic highlights include Hook and Ladder Gulch, with its extensive areas of slickrock, views of the LaSal Mountains, and red sandstone monoliths such as Casa Colorado Rock and Cameo Butte. The Visual Resource Management (VRM) ratings for the area have been inventoried as Class II, III and IV (Map 2). The majority of the Class II-rated land is in the middle portion of the planning area. This rating encourages managers to retain the existing character of the landscape. This area is considered scenic quality class "B with high sensitivity." The remainder of the planning area is considered VRM III and IV which permit moderate changes to the landscape. A scenic quality class rating of "C" is given to these areas.

Recreation Resources

There are 140 miles of road within the boundary of the planning area. While these roads were constructed for minerals exploration or grazing purposes, they have been used in recent years by recreationists for jeeping, bicycling and ATV'ing. The guidebook to biking, hiking and four-wheeling, "Cameo Cliffs" by F.A. and M. M. Barnes was published in 1992 and suggests self guided tours of the area. One commercial tour operator utilizes the area for mountain bike tours.

In addition to the road system, there is a recently constructed staging area in the southwest corner of the Special Recreation Area, and partial San Juan County intersection signs at some junctions. There are no other recreation facilities in the area.

D. Use in the Management Area

1. Grazing

There are three grazing permits authorized within the Cameo Cliffs area (see Map 3). The very large Lisbon Allotment, (#05388) which covers most of the proposed SRMA as well as a more extensive area, is permitted for 1634 cattle and 23 horses from November 1 to June 10.

Approximately five percent of the Hatch Point Allotment is in the far northern boundary of the planning area (#05389). The entire allotment permits 1164 cattle from October 15 to June 15, or 2455 sheep from November 15 to May 31. Approximately five percent of the Rocky Allotment (#05390) is in the northeast part of the planning area. The entire allotment permits 7 cattle from October 15 to June 15.

2. Mining

There are 10 historic mine sites within the proposed Cameo Cliffs Special Recreation Management Area. Mining activity was focused along the eastern boundary of the area in the sandstones, mudstones and siltstones of the Triassic Moss Back Member of the Chile Formation. All of the mines were worked for uranium and/or vanadium and may have residual ore piles with varying degrees of radioactivity. Only one has been reclaimed, and in only one is the shaft fenced. These old mine sites are a hazard to the public

3. Oil and gas

Twenty-seven oil and gas wells were drilled within the proposed Cameo Cliffs Special Recreation Management Area; four of these locations are in the central portion of the planning area, and 23 are in its eastern portion. Eight of the 27 wells are currently producing, 14 are plugged and abandoned, one is a gas shut-in, one is an oil shut in, two are temporarily abandoned, and one is abandoned.

4. Rights of Way

The following rights of way are within the planning area:

U0-14470	Federal Highway Administration	400 feet	U.S. Highway 191
U0-15364	Pacificorp	40 feet	powerline
U0-15595	Pacificorp	125 feet	69kV powerline and LaSal Substation
U0-15664	Northwest Energy	50 feet	buried 24" gas pipeline
U0-16311	Pacificorp	100 feet	12.5kV powerline
U0-16345	Pacificorp	50-100 feet	69kV, 12.5 & 7.2 kV Powerlines
U0-16856	Federal Highway Administration	100-200 feet	State Highway 46
U0-19510	Pacificorp	100 feet	12.5kV powerline-Lisbon Uranium Company
U0-29799	Pacificorp	10-20 feet	14.4 kV powerline
U0-35443	Pacificorp	100 feet	138 kV powerline
U0-44075	Federal Highway Administration	200-400feet	U.S. Highway 191
U-5708	Tom Brown, Inc.	50 feet	Lisbon Unit gathering system
			Surface & buried natural gas Pipelines
U-10361	Pacificorp	80 feet	138kV powerline
U-10657	Pacificorp	130 feet	345 kV powerline
U-16709	Utah Gas Service Company	50 feet	4" buried gas pipeline
U-16968	Pacificorp	25 feet	12.5 kV powerline
U-34075	Citizens Communications	10 feet	overhead & buried telephone Cable

U-36682	Citizens Communications	10 feet	buried cable
U-36987	Tom Brown, Inc.	18 feet	access road
U-43521	MidAmerica Pipeline Co.	50 feet	buried 10.75" pipeline
U-47079	Citizens Communications	10 feet	buried telephone line
U-49745	Air Products and Chemicals	120' x 150 feet	Nitrogen plant site
U-50141	Citizens Communications	10 feet	telephone servicing/Union Oil Nitrogen plant
U-51320	San Juan County	100 feet	Big Indian Road
U-75270	Glaze, Philip	66 feet	2 roads near Wilson Arch
U-75288	Pacificorp	25 feet	25kV powerline
U-75393	Tom Brown, Inc.	30 feet	surface 6" natural gas pipeline
U-78872	Glaze, Philip	10 feet	fence
U-79446	BLM	R/W reservation -Wilson Arch recreation Site	
U-80109	San Juan County	ATV road segments and parking/staging Area	
U-80127	BLM	ATV Parking/staging area	

5. Recreation

Relatively light recreation use currently occurs within the planning area. Riding All Terrain Vehicles and, to a much lesser extent, mountain biking, are the two predominant recreational uses. Visitors engage in these activities on the network of routes within the area. There is currently one commercial mountain biking company operating in the area. The San Juan ATV Safari (an event) utilized one route within the proposed SRMA.

Other recreational uses may also occur within the Cameo Cliffs area. Opportunities for hiking and horseback riding are many; however, the frequency of this type of use is not presently known, although it does not occur very often. Some hunting also occurs in the area.

II. MANAGEMENT CONSTRAINTS

Several roads which are predominantly on BLM land intersect private and SITLA (School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration) holdings. These non-BLM portions of road represent vital links for loop route possibilities.

There are private lands adjoining the Recreation Area, including the Wilson Arch Subdivision. The concerns of these landowners should be taken into consideration. In addition, other public lands resource uses, such as oil and gas and grazing, provide constraints on new uses of those same public lands. The presence of deer winter range in the Special Recreation Management Area also must be taken into account.

Visual Resource Management classes present additional constraints as management actions should be consistent with the classifications.

III. MANAGEMENT GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

The overall goal of the Management Plan is to provide sustainable opportunities for road-related motorized and mechanized outdoor recreation, and to provide a non-mechanized hiking and equestrian area in Hook and Ladder Gulch, while protecting and maintaining resource values including range, wildlife habitat, scenic, cultural, historical, recreational, and riparian values in current or improved condition. This goal would aid in supplementing and diversifying the economy of San Juan County.

The following objectives for the Cameo Cliffs Management Plan were developed in consultation with representatives of San Juan County after considering past management actions, legal requirements, and conformance with the Grand RMP:

A. Recreation Management

To provide a focal point for responsible motorized, mechanized and non-motorized recreational use.

To provide for public safety and reduce potential conflicts with oil and gas operators and livestock graziers.

To develop facilities and a management framework appropriate for establishment of the Cameo Cliffs Recreation Area as a Special Recreation Management Area.

To establish and maintain a semi-primitive non-motorized area for management as a hiking and equestrian area in Hook and Ladder Gulch.

To work with San Juan County to further the Cameo Cliffs portion of the San Juan County All-terrain Vehicle Plan.

B. Wildlife and Vegetation Resources

To protect and manage wildlife and vegetation resources in the Cameo Cliffs area in accordance with BLM policies. All proposed actions will be evaluated and designed to avoid or mitigate negative impacts to wildlife and vegetation resources.

C. Cultural

To protect and manage historical and archaeological resources in the Cameo Cliffs area in accordance with BLM policies and laws. Identify, interpret and protect sites associated with the Old Spanish Trail. Consider developing portions of the Old Spanish Trail as an equestrian opportunity. All proposed actions will be evaluated and designed to avoid or mitigate negative impacts to historical and archaeological resources.

IV. FOCUS OF THE MANAGEMENT PLAN - RECREATION PROGRAM

A major emphasis of the Cameo Cliffs RAMP is placed on recreation. Management Plan decisions have as a focus the provision of semi-primitive motorized and roaded-natural recreational opportunities (as determined by Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classifications) while maintaining the integrity of the resource. The three ROS classes identified within Cameo Cliffs are described below and are indicated on Map 4.

Rural (Class V)- area is characterized by substantially modified natural environment. Sights and sounds of humans are readily evident. Facilities for intensified motorized use and parking area available.

There are 4,809 acres of rural ROS within the planning area.

Roaded-natural (Class IV)- To provide a somewhat natural appearing environment with moderate evidences of the sights and sounds of man, permit motorized use, harmonize recreation management practices with the natural environment, and manage for no more than moderate concentrations of users with facilities sometimes provided for group activities.

There are 10,771 acres of roaded-natural ROS within the planning area.

Semi-primitive Motorized (Class III)- To provide a relatively natural or naturally appearing environment where evidence of man, restrictions, and controls are present, but subtle; permit motorized use, recreation facilities blend with the natural environment, and management that fosters dispersal of users.

There are 4,471 acres of semi-primitive motorized ROS within the planning area

To maintain the current ROS class conditions, motorized and mechanized travel will be limited to a network of, for the most part, already existing, constructed roads. Also, signs and printed materials will be provided to prevent and/or reduce user conflicts and unauthorized use within the planning area.

To accommodate some motorized and mechanized use in an area of scenic and sensitive resource values, a route system will be developed utilizing existing and designated roads. Where geography, land ownership, and resource sensitivity allow, currently existing roads will be used to create a continuous route network with loop opportunities. Enhancements may be made to this network, including the installment of directional and regulatory signs, the construction of 4.5 miles of route to provide a scenic loop ride (subject to cultural clearance and right of way application and approval) and the rerouting of two road segments to avoid private property and an oil and gas facility.

All motorized routes inventoried by San Juan County during its road inventory process will be designated as available for motorized travel (the marked routes will be a subset of these

designated roads. These marked routes will be identified as the Hook and Ladder Motorized Route System). In addition, hiking and equestrian trails will be designated in the Hook and Ladder Gulch area.

Based on current recreation trends, marked routes and some facilities would be appreciated and put to use by visitors. The Management Plan includes a process through which additional routes and facilities could be marked or established to meet future recreational demand. If management objectives are realized with the initial phase of the marked route network, recreational opportunities could be expanded within the proposed Cameo Cliffs SRMA.

V. MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

The following specific management actions are designed to accomplish the plan's objectives while protecting the resources present in the proposed Cameo Cliffs SRMA:

A. Off-Highway Vehicle Designation

Limit motorized and mechanized travel within the entire planning area to designated roads. These designated roads (140 miles) are the routes that have been inventoried by San Juan County and are a subset of the myriad of existing routes within the proposed SRMA. The designated road system will include two reroutes of existing roads to accommodate ATV use. A map of designated roads is provided (Map 5: Designated Roads). This action is accomplished as an amendment to the Grand RMP which included the Cameo Cliffs areas as an open OHV travel area. The change in OHV management category is necessary to support expected increased OHV use of the area while maintaining resource values and providing for a range of recreation opportunities. This action will be implemented as a formal plan amendment.

Follow the plan amendment process to create this designation. (For mechanized travel designations, publish a Federal Register notice.)

The Marked Hook and Ladder Route system (a 50 mile subset of the designated roads) has been chosen for intensive use to provide scenic loop opportunities and as routes of most public interest. These marked routes will reduce some of the potential safety hazards at industrial sites (by avoidance).

B. Cameo Cliffs Hook and Ladder Marked Route System (Motorized and Mechanized)

Delineate a network of marked motorized routes in the planning area. These will include (but may not be limited to) the following: (see Map 6: Hook and Ladder/Cameo Cliffs Marked Route System):

Wilson Point
Cameo Ridge
Agate Point
Old Mail Route

Top Notch
Cameo Terrace
El Diablo
Black Brush
Dugway
Straightaway
Old Homestake
Cross
Rough House
Main Street

The marked route system (created from the existing motorized routes within the area) was chosen to enhance public enjoyment of the area, and to provide semi-primitive motorized and roaded-natural experiences for visitors. These marked routes will be made no wider than the original constructed roadbed. The marked routes form a subset of the designated road system. There will be no attempt to mark all the designated roads (which would only lead to confusion on the part of visitors), but only those parts of these roads which make up the marked route system (Map 6: Marked Route System). Undesignated and uninventoried routes may be marked as “closed” if vehicles use them in error. While the route system will be marked with ATV’s in mind, other motorized users are free to use this system.

Staging Area: a graveled parking lot (or staging area) for vehicles and trailers will be managed off County Road 114 as shown on Map 6: Marked Route System. San Juan County applied for and received a right of way for this parking lot; the right of way application included archeological review. As funds allow, a vault toilet and an information kiosk will be constructed in this area, perhaps with the help of State of Utah Motorized Trail grant monies. These facilities will be jointly managed and maintained by the Bureau of Land Management and by San Juan County through an agreement.

Reroutes: two route segments require rerouting, and San Juan County has applied for and received a right of way to construct these reroutes. Route Segment 1 reroutes the marked route to the east of the existing road. This road goes through a hazardous gas well in T. 29 S., R. 23 E., Section 25 , E1/2SE1/4. This reroute is approximately 1/3 of a mile long, and utilizes existing seismographic lines for about one half of the reroute. This reroute has undergone archeological review. The second route segment in need of rerouting is in Section 35 (T. 29 S., R. 23 E., SESE). This reroute traverses approximately one eighth of a mile. The purpose of this rerouting is to avoid private lands. This rerouting has been requested by the private landowner. Archeological clearances have already been secured for this reroute as well.

C. Mountain Bike Use

Direct mountain bike use to the marked route system. Limit mountain bikes to designated roads. This action would be accomplished as part of the amendment of the Grand RMP, and would require the publication of a Federal Register notice.

D. Non Motorized Use

Provide opportunities for hiking and equestrian use in the area. Hikers and horseback riders are welcomed on the marked route system. In addition, they may explore off-road within the recreation area. The Hook and Ladder Gulch area itself will be designated as particularly suited for hiking and equestrian exploration. In the future, a trailhead for hiking and equestrian use of Hook and Ladder Gulch may be provided if use levels warrant.

The Old Spanish Trail, which passes through the proposed Cameo Cliffs Special Recreation Management Area, has recently been designated as a National Historic Trail. In coordination with the upcoming Old Spanish Trail management plan, this trail will be marked and developed for equestrian use.

E. Routes on Non-BLM Land

Work with San Juan County to acquire public access on roads that traverse SITLA land holdings through easements, rights of way, or other types of agreement. These sections of road represent vital links for loop routes. Indeed, there are five full sections of SITLA land within the planning area; many of the marked routes cross SITLA lands.

F. Signage

Sign the planning area as is necessary to provide information, increase public enjoyment, assist visitors in wayfinding, and to minimize recreational impacts upon the resource.

Install an information kiosk providing public information at the staging area off County Road 114. Additional kiosks may be installed (if use grows) near Casa Colorado Rock (interpreting the Old Spanish Trail history), and at a potential second staging area southeast of the town of LaSal, off County Road 181. Other staging and information areas may be established as needed.

Information posted on the information kiosks will include a map of the planning area with a focus on marked route system, regulatory information (i.e., *motorized and mechanized travel is limited to designated roads*), an interpretive explanation of why the regulations are necessary, and information on low-impact recreational use, route etiquette, and visitor safety.

Install signs at each access point with the general message “Entering Special Management Area – please stop and read rules” in a way that the visitor sees this sign first upon entering the area. Install Cameo Cliffs Special Recreation Management Area entry signs.

Install interpretive kiosks so that visitors can understand the history of the Old Spanish Trail.

Utilize small, unobtrusive signs (i.e., carsonite posts) on the Route System to indicate the marked routes of travel, to mark junctions, and to provide “you are here” information for all routes. In addition, the names of the routes may be put on these signs.

Establish route marking standards and follow Utah Natural Resources Coordinating Council (NRCC) conventions where feasible to provide consistent and informative signing.

Adhere “Cameo Cliffs SRMA” stickers to directional signs.

G. Amendments to the Marked Route System

Initiate changes to the marked route system if such action is warranted by the monitoring of resource conditions, use patterns, and demand. Possible changes include creating additional routes, removing routes from the network, adjusting the type of allowed use, and adjusting the amount or timing of allowed use. Proposed amendments will be evaluated during the annual review (see section VI).

H. Camping

Dispersed camping is currently allowed throughout the Planning Area, although its occurrence is not great. Should camping use grow so that resource damage begins to occur from dispersed camping, camping may be limited to designated sites. (This action is consistent with the Resource Management Plan, but would require the publication of a special rule in a Federal Register notice).

This plan establishes the following camping regulations:

- 1) campers must bring their own firewood
- 2) campers must build fires in existing fire rings/grates
- 3) campers must pack out all refuse (including human waste).

Develop a campground near the staging area on County Road 114 by installing a class C toilet, picnic tables, and fire grates if use levels warrant and funding allows. This campground would be a fee campground.

I. Public Information

Develop a brochure describing the recreational opportunities, especially the marked route system in the Cameo Cliffs Special Recreation Management Area. The map of the Route System will be accompanied by regulatory, directional, and interpretive information. Provide brochures to the public at Moab and Monticello BLM Field Offices and on-site. These brochures should also be available at the Moab and Monticello Visitor Centers.

Provide information about hazards in the area as well as interpretation of the minerals and grazing history of the proposed Cameo Cliffs SRMA.

Provide similar information on the Moab and Monticello Field Office web sites.

J. Old Spanish Trail Management

Provide special management, protection and interpretation to that portion of the Old Spanish Trail that passes through the Cameo Cliffs Special Recreation Management Area. Encourage activities that support and interpret the Old Spanish Trail National Historic Trail. Plan for equestrian use on the Old Spanish Trail. Provide for the public enjoyment, understanding and appreciation of the Trail. Provide special markers delineating sites along the Trail, including “La Tinaja” on the south side of Casa Colorado Rock.

K. Private Horse Use

Continue to allow cross-country and trail-based equestrian use. Encourage horse use on the route of the Old Spanish Trail.

Monitor for conflicts between equestrian and OHV use.

L. Hunting/Shooting

Continue to govern hunting according to Utah state law.

Designate the camping area and the staging area along County Road 114 as no shooting zones (a.k.a. safety zone).

M. Vending

Provide for a generally natural-appearing area free from on-site solicitations by verbal, visual, electronic, audio, or other means, except as authorized in association with a special recreation permit for a recreation event.

N. Fees/Permits

Charge a camping fee for use of developed facilities to recover costs if necessary.

Require special recreation permits for all commercial, recreational uses of the Public Lands within Cameo Cliffs. The Cameo Cliffs Route System will be open to commercial recreational use.

Follow BLM’s special recreation permit regulations and Special Rules published by the Moab Field Office when considering the granting of permits for organized group activities and events.

O. Competitive Events: “No events where speed is the determining factor”

Focus management on providing for non-competitive use of the Marked Route System. As a means of maintaining the touring-based, family-oriented nature of the Route System, do not authorize competitive motorized events.

Commercial use and special events are appropriate uses of the Cameo Cliffs Motorized Route System.

P. Administration

The Moab Field Office will administer the Cameo Cliffs Special Recreation Management Area in partnership with San Juan County. Memoranda of Understanding may be considered in the future management of this area.

Q. Maintenance

Maintain recreation sites in a natural appearing and safe condition through the provision of adequate funding, staff, and volunteer labor.

Integrate maintenance needs for Cameo Cliffs SRMA into the BLM's budget cycle.

R. Volunteer Assistance

Utilize volunteers to help implement the Management Plan.

Offer volunteer projects such as route reconstruction, blocking of unauthorized routes, vehicle barrier construction, revegetation work, patrolling of the route network, and similar activities which benefit public land resources and values.

S. Special Recreation Area Management

Recommend that Cameo Cliffs become a Special Recreation Management Area in the Plan Amendment (see accompanying Environmental Assessment) to the Moab Field Office Resource Management Plan.

VI. RESOURCE MONITORING

The establishment of an effective monitoring system to detect impacts from recreation is a crucial element of a successful management plan. Frequent monitoring will be conducted by resource area personnel and volunteers. This monitoring will include visitor contact and evaluation of resource conditions.

The condition of Cameo Cliffs Route System will be monitored according to the Utah BLM OHV Monitoring Protocol. Level two monitoring will be conducted initially, using the linear

transect and photo point data collection procedures. The Monitoring Protocol consists of the following steps:

1. Select monitoring sites based on a certain criteria
2. Create a monitoring file
3. Select monitoring tools
4. Establish baseline data
5. Establish monitoring schedule

Periodic review will be performed, and a document written, assessing the condition of Cameo Cliffs SRMA. This process will highlight the effects, both positive and negative, that have come as a result of the Management Plan. Recreation management decisions concerning route designation modifications and recreational facility/route proposals will be considered at this time. The review process will be open to the public. Data from the OHV Monitoring Protocol process will be incorporated into this report. Indicators of change to be analyzed include: visitation levels, user complaints, user conflicts, quantity and type of recreation uses occurring, quantity and type of regulation violations, proliferation of unauthorized routes, changes in visitor motives and needs, and documented resource damage.

VII. IMPLEMENTATION SEQUENCE AND COSTS OF MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

A. Implementation

Management actions outlined in the Management Plan will be implemented in a series of three phases (Figure 1). The first implementation phase will focus on the OHV designation change, the further development of the first staging area, and the subsequent signing of marked routes within the planning area. Phase II will include the establishment of an adopt-a-route program, designed to help maintain the marked route system and other values of the area, including the non-motorized hiking and equestrian area.

The last phase, which represents a broad time span, includes the development of camping facilities near the staging area on County Road 114, and the possible addition of routes to the Route System. If there is a need for an additional staging area, this will be developed at the intersection of County Roads B156 and B181. The Phase III activities will be stimulated by demand and will be initiated when such actions are deemed consistent with the goal and objectives of the Management Plan. OHV monitoring, patrolling of the area, maintenance, and consideration of Route System amendments will be ongoing throughout the implementation sequence. Implementation of phases I and II will be completed within five years following approval of the Recreation Area Management Plan and corresponding Environmental Assessment.

Implementation Phase	Management Action
I	Establish plan amendment for OHV designation change
	Establish baseline data for Utah BLM OHV Monitoring Protocol process
	Complete staging and parking area on County Rd. B114
	Sign the route network, including intersections and periodic route markers. Establish non-motorized hiking and equestrian area.
	Install OHV designation signs
	Install bulletin board at staging area
II	Establish adopt-a-route program
III <i>(as use levels warrant)</i>	Install facilities at County Road 114 camping area
	Make refinements to Cameo Cliffs Route System, including a separate trailhead for hiking and equestrian users
	Install bulletin board/develop staging area at County Rd. B156 and B181 intersection

Figure 1. Implementation Sequence of Management Actions for Cameo Cliffs SRMA.

B. Cost Estimate Summary

Procurement (Phase I only)

2 bulletin boards: \$300 each for materials, \$400 each for installation	\$ 1,400
Toilet (Class C) at staging area	\$ 3,000
Carsonite posts: \$17 each x 200 posts (includes sticker)	\$ 3,400
OHV designation signs: \$200 each x 5	\$ 1,000
Brochure/map publication	\$ 500
Other signs: \$200 each x 2	\$ 400
Printing of Cameo Cliffs stickers: \$100 set-up, \$1 each x 200 stickers	\$ 300
Total:	\$ 10,000

Maintenance

Maintenance and cleaning of toilet	\$ 2,000 p.a.
Maintenance of route signage	\$ 1,000 p.a.

Staffing

Seasonal Employee

Recreation Planner

Law Enforcement

REFERENCES

Barnes, F.A. and M.M., Cameo Cliffs: Biking, Hiking and Four Wheeling. Canyon Country Publications, 1992.

Barnes, F.A. and M.M. Cameo Cliffs Biking Hiking and Four Wheeling Recreational Map. Canyon Country Publications, 1992.